

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CAB-02 DOTE-00 FAA-00

/071 W

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R 221455Z OCT 75 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8664

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS ELAB IS

SUBJECT: EL AL STRIKE CONTINUES INTO SEVENTH DAY

REF: TEL AVIV 6607 AND 6645

1. EL AL WORKSHOP TECHNICIANS CONTINUE THEIR ILLEGAL STRIKE INTO SEVENTH DAY WITH NO IMMEDIATE END IN SIGHT. BOTH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN PUBLICLY THAT THEY WILL NOT YEILD. WHILE THERE WAS NO FURTHER MOVE ON GOI AND MANAGEMENT SIDE, HISTADRUT EXECUTIVE DECIDED AFTERNOON OCTOBER 21 TO WITHDRAW RECOGNITION FROM STRIKING UNION BY NEXT MORNING UNLESS THEY RESUMED WORK. THIS DID NOT END STRIKE, BUT IT DEPRIVES STRIKERS OF PROTECTION OF UNION CONTRACT AND GIVES MANAGEMENT FREE HAND TO DISCIPLINE THEM.

2. HOWEVER, EL AL MANAGEMENT DECISION TO IMPOSE COMPULSORY LEAVE ON LARGE NUMBER OF NON-STRIKING EMPLOYEES HAS COMPLICATED SITUATION FOR HISTADRUT, WHICH VIEWS THIS AS LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCE OF MUCH LARGER GROUP OF UNION EMPLOYEES WHOM IT MUST DEFEND. UNION SPOKESMEN ARE FEARFUL THAT CREATION OF SECOND DISPUTE COULD COMPLICATE SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE. HISTADRUT

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HAS ALREADY ASKED DISTRICT LABOR COURT FOR INJUNCTION TO END

COMPULSORY LEAVE.

3. BOTH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICIAL AND HISTADRUT CHIEF NEGOTIATORS HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT ANY CONCESSIONS TO STRIKERS WOULD OPEN FLOODGATE OF DEMANDS FROM OTHER GROUPS, MAKING ORDERLY WAGE NEGOTIATIONS IN 1976 IMPOSSIBLE. THEY REFER TO STRIKE LEADERS AS "ENRAGES" WHO MUST BE TAUGHT LESSON. HOWEVER, THEY PRIVATELY ADMIT THAT MANAGEMENT BY DRAGGING OUT NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT INTENT TO SETTLE HAD CONTRIBUTED TO CONFRONTATION. GOI HAS FLOATED RUMOR THAT IN VIEW OF EL AL'S LONG HISTORY OF LABOR CONFLICTS IT MAY IMPOSE MAJOR MANAGEMENT CHANGES AND CUTS IN PERSONNEL.

4. ON OTHER HAND, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION SAID HE BELIEVES STRIKERS' POSITION IS SOFTENING AND THAT THEY LIKELY TO RESUME WORK SOON, AS THEY REALIZE THEY RISK LOSING THEIR JOBS. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, NOBODY VENTURES TO PREDICT SPECIFIC TIME FOR END OF DISPUTE.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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